introduce Rajdhani Express (weekly) and Ashram Express (daily) during August' 1997. Introduction of additional trains between Delhi and Ahmedabad is not proposed presently due to operational and resource constraints.

Issuance of I-cards to blind Railway hawkers in Mumbai

462. SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to issue I-cards for blind Railway hawkers in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details of the plan; and

(c) by when it will be initiated?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Contract for the Supply of Wooden Sleepers

463. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given contract to private parties to supply wooden sleepers for Railways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Entry of Unauthorised Travellers in Reserved Compartments

464. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to a nexus between the coach attendants/TTEs, a racket of allowing unsuthorised travellers to enter the reserved compartments specially during nights is going on in the indian Railways;

(b) whether any raids have been conducted in the moving trains during nights;

(c) if so, what are the findings thereof; and

(d) in what manner Government propose to stop this illegal practice of extorting money from travellers?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Some incidents of unauthorised persons entering the reserved compartments have come to notice. Surprise checks are conducted regularly by the Commercial and Vigilance departments of the Railways along with the Railway Protection Force/ Government Railway Police personnel in the trains during the day and night hours. However, convenience of the reserved passengers is kept in mind while conducting these checks at night. In 1997-98 (upto May, 1997), 1.97 lakh checks have been conducted and 16.07 lakh persons were appredhended travelling without/with improper ticket and a sum of Rs. 18.11 crores realised from them as railway dues.

(d) All out efforts are made to ensure that passengers without confirmed reserved tickets do not enter reserved coaches. The ticket checking staff detrain such passengers with the assistance of the Railway Protection Force/Government Railway Police staff available on the train or are detrained at the next station. In addition, these unauthorised passengers are charged fare and penalty in

accordance with the extant rules. Railway staff found involved in or abetting such activities are severely taken up for penal action.

रेल यात्रियों को उपलब्ध कराई गई सुविधाएं

465. **प्रो० विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) वर्ष 1996-97 के दौरान भारतीय रेलवे में यात्रियों की सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराने के लिए कितनी धनराशि खर्च की गई है और 1997-98 के दौरान कितनी धनराशि खर्च किए जाने की संभावना है;

(ख) क्या सरकार द्वितीय श्रेणी के यात्रियों की उपलब्धता कम सुविधाओं को देखते हुए उनके लिए सुविधाओं में वृद्धि किए जाने का विचार रखती है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो कौन-कौन सी अतिरिक्त सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराए जाने की संभावना है?

रेल मंत्री (श्री राम विलास पासवान):

(क) 1996-97 — 87.96 करोड़ रुपये

1997-98 — 80.00 करोड़ रुपये

(ख) और (ग) यात्रियों के लिए यात्री सुविधाओं की व्यवस्था/वृद्धि करना एक सतत् प्रक्रिया है और ऐसा स्टेशन पर संभाले जाने वाले यातायात के अनुरूप आवश्यकता के आधार पर किया जाता है बशर्ते कि धन उपलब्ध हो। प्लेटफार्म सायबान और प्लेटफार्मों की व्यवस्था/विस्तार, प्रतीक्षालय/प्रतीक्षा कक्ष, बुकिंग सुविधाओं में सुधार, प्रकाश व्यवस्था, बैठने की व्यवस्था, पीने के पानी की व्यवस्था, शौचालयों, परिचालन क्षेत्र, अल्पाहार कक्षों की व्यवस्था, विश्रामालयों, डारमिटरीज, समय सारणी प्रदर्श बोर्डों, ऊपरी पैदल पुल और स्टेशन इमारत का पुनर्निर्माण/पुनरुद्धार से संबंधित कार्य आवश्यक होने पर रेलों के वार्षिक निर्माण कार्यक्रम के माध्यम से किए जाते हैं।

दूसरे दर्जे के यात्रियों के लिए निम्नलिखित सुविधाएं प्रदान की जाती हैं:—

(I) चरणबद्ध आधार पर गद्दीदार शायिकाओं की व्यवस्था।

(II) मौजूदा 24 वोल्ट प्रणाली का 110 वोल्ट प्रणाली में बदलाव करके सवारी डिब्बे की प्रकाश व्यवस्था में सुधार।

(III) सवारी डिब्बों में पी वी सी की फर्श की व्यवस्था।

(IV) न रिसने वाली शौचालय फिटिंगों की व्यवस्था।

12.00 Noon

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Memorandum of understanding (1997-98) between Govt. of India and Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): Madam, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals) and Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. see No. LT-2200/97]

Report and Accounts (1995-96) of Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi and related Papers

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): Madam, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, together with the Audit Report on the Accounts.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the above Council.

(iii) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) above.

[Placed in Library. see No. LT-2191/97 for (i) to (iii)]